Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, "low-tech" solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at http://inform.enterprise.prog.org

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Interfacing Information for Highway Safety

Overall goal:
To identify and analyze high-accident locations and determine appropriate measures to improve safety.

Technical approach:
Database software links accident information provided by the New York State Centralized Local Accident Surveillance System with site-specific local traffic counts. Accident rates for individual intersections are then compared with average rates for the appropriate road classification, such as urban, suburban, or rural roads. Intersections with higher than normal accident rates for their classification can then be identified. Investigators use this data to consider accident patterns and recommend suitable road improvements.

Current status:
The system has been in operation in Monroe County, New York since 1992.

Location / geographic scope:
As this system relies on the New York State Centralized Local Accident Surveillance System for accident information on Monroe County, this system would only be applicable to areas in New York State. Other areas, however, could probably perform this tracking themselves, allowing transfer of the system to other localities.

Agencies involved:
Monroe County Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation. Northwestern University, Transportation Institute.

Cost information:
No precise cost details are presently available. The cost of implementing the system includes the cost of a traffic engineer and / or technician, a computing system capable of running Paradox, and the Paradox database application.

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Key contacts: Alan Stiehler, Monroe County Department of Transportation. (716) 274-7927

Have goals been achieved? Since the introduction of the system, around 300 high accident locations have been identified and engineering improvements have been made to about 75 percent of these sites.

Solution timeline: No plans exist at present to transfer the system to other locations.